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**Creating Stronger Families around the World: Evidence from a Systematic Review of Kinship Care**

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**Objectives/aims**

The objectives of the presentation are as follows:

1. Provide summary of methods and findings from updated Campbell and Cochrane systematic review of kinship care evidence for improving safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes of children removed from the home for maltreatment.
2. Highlight how findings from the systematic review of kinship care informed state policy and county practice regarding placing children removed from the home with kin.

**Methods**

The methods used for the study were as follows:

1. Criteria was established for types of studies, participants, interventions, and outcomes to be considered in the review.
2. Methods for the identification, search, and selection of studies were defined and implemented.
3. Data were extracted and managed from the included studies.
4. Outcome data were analysed using meta-analytical techniques and measures of treatment effect were generated.
5. Assessment of risk of bias was conducted using ‘Risk of Bias’ tool.
6. Document review and focus groups were conducted to identify changes to state rule and county practice regarding the placement of children removed from the home with kin.

**Main findings**

102 quasi-experimental studies with 666,615 children were included in the updated review. The ’Risk of bias’ analysis indicates that the evidence base contains studies with unclear risk for selection bias, performance bias, detection bias, reporting bias, and attrition bias. Current evidence suggests that children in kinship care may do better than children in traditional foster care in terms of their behavioural development, mental health functioning, and placement stability. Children in traditional foster care may do better with regard to achieving adoption and accessing mental health services they may need. There were no negative effects experienced by children placed with kin.